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MEDA represents over 230 members, who are actively involved in local economic activity, community development, job retention and job creation for Montana.

April 12, 2013

TO: Chairman David Howard and members of the House Human Services Committee

RE: MEDA Support for SB395 Revise health care laws to expand Medicaid and improve health care delivery

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA), an organization of over 230 economic and community development practitioners from across our state, is pleased to support SB395.

MEDA is supportive of SB395 for many reasons, including the following:

- Expansion could insure 60,000 Montanans, most of whom are already employed.
- More insured Montanans means financial security for rural hospitals, so they'll be ready when you need them.
- Expansion could create 12,000-16,000 jobs.
- We're already paying for the uninsured with higher insurance rates and Medicaid payments to hospitals. So they might as well have the security and health that comes with insurance.
- 100% of the cost is covered by the federal government thru 2016 to expand Medicaid to uninsured, working Montanans, gradually decreasing permanently to 90%. That's a great deal.
- Over \$2 billion would return to Montana's economy as a result of increased economic activity in the health sector from 2014-2020.

In addition to the expansion and greater efficiency of our state's health care system through SB395, MEDA believes this proposal is a wise use of federal Medicaid dollars. We think it is important to take this opportunity to invest in the health care of Montana residents rather than having our designated funds used elsewhere.

This bill will transform the delivery of care, improve patient outcomes and contain costs, all while expanding our economy through the creation of thousands of jobs. As we know, this economic activity will have a significant ripple effect, increasing development opportunities across many sectors.

We urge your strong support for SB395.

For MEDA,

Tracy McIntyre, President

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